

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01644 211113Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /099 W
-----014525 211117Z /13

P R 201715Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7814
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
RUFNPSAMEMBASSY PARIS 1140
AMEEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NYK
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1644

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

DAKAR AND RABAT ALSO FOR USDAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, SS, MR, MO

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: 1500 MOROCCAN TROOOPS ARRIVE IN ZOUERATE

1. FIFTEEN HUNDRED MAN MOROCCAN ARMY STRIKE FORCE WAS AIRLIFTED INTO
ZOUERJTE JULY 19 AS POST-NOUAKCHOTT (JULY 3) AND POST-ZOUERATE
(JULY 16) BEEFING UP OF MAURITANIAN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. IN ADDITION
,
RTEN MOROCCAN AIR FORCE COMBAT AIRCRAFT AND CREWS ARE NOW BASED AT
ATAR.

2. ALERTED BY EUROPEAN RADIO REPORTS BASED ON AGENCE FRANCE PRESS
DESPATCH, EMBOFF QUERIED AFP COORESPONDENT, FRENCH MILLATT, AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01644 211113Z

MOROCCAN CHARGE ON REPORTED ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS. CHARGE
REPORTED THAT RABAT BASED LIGHT CUREY BRIGADE OF 1500 MEN WITH
LIGHT EQUIPMENT WAS AIRLIFTED INTO ZOUERATE JULY 19 BY THREE
FAR C-130S IN 15 SORTIES. LSB HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER COMMAND
OF LTC BOUKEIF, FORMER MAURITANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF AND NEW
COMMANDER OF STRENGTHENED BIR MOGHREIN/ZOUERATE SECTOR.
MOROCCAN UNIT IS TO REMAIN IN MAURITANIA "INDEFINITELY".

MOROCCANS HAVE ALSO BASED 10 T-6 AND FOUGA MAGISTER AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING GROUND MAINTENANCE CREWS, IN ATAR. ALTHOUGH SIX T-6S HAVE BEEN IN ATAR FOR ROUGHLY 4 WEEKS, FOUGAS HAVE JUST ARRIVED. CHARGE REPORTED THAT MOROCCANS ARE PRESSING AHEAD WITH CONSTRUCTION OF AIRFIELD IN ATAR IN ORDER ACCOMMODATE JET AIRCRAFT (F-5S AND MYSTERES) ASAP.

3. MOROCCAN CHARGE ALSO REPORTED MOROCCANS HAVE HARD INFORMATION THAT ALGERIAN TROOPS ARE OCCUPYING CHEGGA, MAURITANIAN VILLAGE IN FAR NORTHEAST CORNER OF COUNTRY, AND THAT AIRFIELD AT CHEGGA IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING ALGERIAN AIR FORCE CARGO PLANES ("SOVIET EQUIVALENT OF C-130S" -- PRESUMABLY AN-12S). MOROCCANS ARE PREPARING TO TAKE CONTROL OF CHEGGA AND ESTABLISH MOROCCAN BASE THERE.

4. JULY 19 AGENCE FRANCE PRESS REPORT OF ARRIVAL MOROCCAN TROOPS IN ZOERATE WAS UNEXPECTED BONUS FOR NEWLY ARRIVED AFP REPORTER WHO WAS ON ROUTINE ORIENTATION VISIT THERE. SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL MORNING JULY 19 REPORTER OBSERVED THREE MOROCCAN C-130S DISCHARGING MOROCCAN TROOPS AND LIGHT EQUIPMENT. HIFAFP VTPORT NOTED THAT 600 MOROCCAN TROOPS IN FIVE FLIGHT OF THREE C-130S ARRIVED ZOERATE JULY 19. FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE NOTED THAT ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS IN ZOERATE (HE SUGGESTED 400-500) WAS WELCOME ADDITIONS AS IT WOULD PROVIDE INCREASED PROTECTION OF ZOERATE MINING OPERATION (AND 100-PLUS FRENCH NATIONALS THERE) AND WOULD FREE MAURITANIAN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01644 211113Z

MILITARY UNITS FOR FIELD RECONNAISSANCE AND SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE DOUBT MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN OFFICIALS WERE PREPARED TO ANNOUNCE, ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS IN ZOERATE; THEY WERE OUT FAKED BY NEW AFP REPORTER. FRENCH, MOROCCAN, AND MAURITANIAN SOURCES ALL EMPHASIZE THAT INCREASED MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE IS NATURAL FOLLOW-ON TO MAY 13 MAURITANIAK-MOROCCAN DEFENSE PACT. MOROCCAN FORCES ARE NOW STATIONED IN ZOERATE, ATAR, BIR MOGHREIN, AND AIN BEN TILI.

HANDY SIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NOUAKC01644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770259-0466
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770738/aaaabgrw.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba1d0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1804198
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: 1500 MOROCCAN TROOOPS ARRIVE IN ZOUERATE
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, SS, MR, MO, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba1d0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009